REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-22 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 21 and 22 have been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Office Action indicates that the drawings are accepted by the Examiner. However, Applicants have not received a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review PTO-948 or other indication of whether or not the formal drawings have been approved by the Draftsperson. Since no objection has been received, Applicants assume that the drawings are acceptable and that no further action is necessary. Confirmation thereof in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

However, Figure 5 has been amended to correct typographical errors. One sheet of corrected formal drawing is attached hereto.

Summary of the Invention

An object of the Applicants' claimed invention is to address the inconvenience associated with monitoring and configuring alarm conditions and network profile characteristics in telecommunication systems. Many telecommunication systems have default settings of alarm conditions for the various types of network faults that might occur. These default settings are usually specified by the vendor or system integrator, and generally do not allow the user to provision an alarm differently than the default setting. This is disadvantageous in that it effectively limits the alarm monitoring function to parameters specified by the vendor and does not allow flexible alarm definitions by the user.

Some systems may provide a single alarm profile for all of the alarms maintained, and although the user may sometimes be allowed to change his alarm profile, all alarm conditions are treated equivalently. Other alarm monitoring systems may allow the definition of several alarm profiles, but these systems typically operate on a system basis and may not allow the definition of alarm conditions on a feature basis. Because alarms of the present systems are not always user provisionable, a user cannot conveniently change the provisioning of alarms. The inconvenience is even greater in cases in a case in which certain alarm conditions need to be turned off and back on, or otherwise modified frequently. Similarly, such systems do not allow system

administrators to conveniently define user profiles that define a wide variety of user characteristics and that can be conveniently used to organize and administer new or existing users.

The Applicants' claimed invention therefore provides a system by which to conveniently change the provisioning of alarms, and to conveniently define and monitor certain measurable network characteristics, such as performance metrics and user profiles.

This convenience is provided in part by defining one or more profiles for each characteristic, the profile for each characteristic being reduced to a simple value. Such a value may be assigned to more than one characteristic. For example, a 1 representing a profile specifying that a card failure condition is not reported may be assigned for a card failure, and/or a 0 representing a profile specifying that each type of failure is critical may be assigned to a card failure. A number of different profiles can be created for each entity, and an operator can modify or add alarm profiles a required. Any number of profiles is possible (the number of profiles defined is practically limited by the amount of available memory). In an example case, a profile assigns a numeric value (0, 1, etc.). However, it is conceivable that any value representation (for example, 23, 150, 323a) can provide the convenience needed to assign such a great number of profiles to characteristics.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,295,139 to Palmer. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

Independent claim 1 recites a combination of steps in a method of identifying and managing network elements in a communication system, the method including defining one or more profiles for each characteristic, the one or more profiles assigning specific values to said each characteristic

Independent claim 11 similarly recites a combination of elements in network node for use in a communication network, the network node including means for defining one or more profiles for each characteristic, the one or more profiles assigning specific values to said each characteristic

Applicants respectfully submit that these combination of steps and elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 11 respectively, are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Palmer.

The Examiner states that Palmer teaches logical entities, for example, a Path logical entity, a Circuit logical entity and a Channel logical entity. Further, the Examiner asserts that Palmer teaches characteristics related to functional attributes, for example, the Channel logical entity mentioned by the Examiner has the attributes Channel I.D. Path Name, Service State, Alarm State etc. (see

Col. 8, lines 11-13), and the Circuit logical entity mentioned by the Examiner

has the attributes Directionality, A Termination, Path Name List, etc. (see Col. 8,

lines 39-41).

Even assuming, *in arguendo*, that the above-named attributes meet the

Applicants' claimed characteristics, the profiles assigning specific values to each

of the claimed characteristic are conspicuously absent from Palmer. For

example, the Examiner has asserted that Palmer teaches a characteristic of

Directionality. However, the Examiner has not given an example where Palmer

discloses a specific assigned value (e.g., 0, 1, 2) for Directionality. Rather, the

Examiner has identified a group of attributes (Bridge Type, Bridge ID, Service

State, Alarm State) and asserted that these attributes, taken together, "make up

a profile". In this regard, the Applicants respectfully submit that arranging

characteristics into a profile does not equate with the assigning of a specific

value (e.g., 0, 1, 2) to one of the asserted characteristics (e.g., Bridge Type, Bridge

ID, Service State and Alarm State).

By contrast, in the Applicants' claimed invention, profiles (for example, 0,

1, 2 etc.) assign specific values to characteristics. The listed values are

exemplary, and as the Applicants' disclosure provides, many more are possible.

Palmer does not teach this feature or any equivalent thereof.

Therefore, for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully

submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claims 1

and 11 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Palmer. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-10 and 12-20, Applicants submit that claims 2-12 and 12-20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 11, respectively, which are allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2-10 and 12-20 are allowable based on their dependence from claims 1 and 11. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 21 and 22

Claims 21 and 22 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants submit that claims 21 and 22 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 11, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from claims 1 and 11, which are believed to be allowable.

In addition, claims 21 and 22 recite further limitations which are not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art references.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.
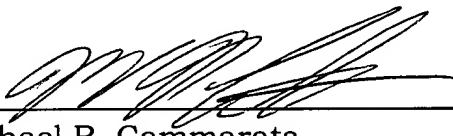
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent,

and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or

1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: _____
Michael R. Cammarata
Reg. No.: 39,491

MRC/PLS:jls:trb

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
Telephone: (703)205-8000

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawing that complies with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawing incorporates the following drawing changes:

Fig. 5 has been amended to correct typographical errors.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.